

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00859 281512Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 /040 W
-----282243 073918 /72S

R 280929Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3169
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0859

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIE

1. CALLED ON FORMER PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIE AT HIS HOUSE IN NAKASH NORTH OF BEIRUT AFTERNOON FEB 25. HE HAS AGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE LAST I SAW HIM 1964 BUT IS STILL FULL OF BEANS. AS WAS CASE WITH CHAMOUN DAY BEFORE, I DID MOST OF THE LISTENING. FRANGIE'S COMMENTS A LITTLE MORE EMOTIONAL THAN CHAMOUN'S, BUT STILL REASONED. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

A. FRANGIE SAID SITUATION IN LEBANON TODAY NOT AS BAD AS IT HAD BEEN BECAUSE MUSLIMS NOW AWARE OF CHRISTIAN DETERMINATION AND COURAGE WHICH THEY HAD NOT SUSPECTED BEFORE. FIGHTING IN LEBANON HAD NOT BEEN LEBANESE AGAINST LEBANESE, BUT LEBANESE AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEBANESE DUPES. PALESTINIANS HAD SOUGHT TO IMPOSE THEMSELVES ON LEBANON AND HAD BEEN DEFEATED.

B. FUTURE WOULD DEPEND ON OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINE PROBLEM, WHICH LEBANESE LOOKED TO AMERICANS TO BRING ABOUT. ONCE THERE WAS SOLUTION, TENSIONS
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IN AREA WOULD ABATE AND LEBANON'S PALESTINIAN PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED. NOW THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA ACCEPTED IDEA OF PALESTINIAN STATE FEDERATED WITH JORDAN, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO IRREDUCIBLE OBSTACLE TO OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT, PROVIDING UNITED STATES WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ISRAEL.

C. NO RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN LEADER IN LEBANON
WAS TALKING ABOUT PARTITION. HE AND OTHER CHRISTIAN
LEADERS WERE TRYING TO WORK OUT FORMULA WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE DEGREE OF LOCAL AUTONOMY. THEIR IDEAS WERE
NOT YET SET BUT EACH OF FIVE PROVINCES COULD HAVE CERTAIN
POWERS RESERVED TO IT, AND ITS INHABITANTS WOULD BE FREE
TO DO AS THEY LIKED IN CERTAIN RESPECTS. MATTERS SUCH AS
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NATIONAL DEFENSE, COMMUNICATIONS,
ELECTRICITY NETWORK, WATER SUPPLIES, ETC., WOULD BE LEFT TO
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE
AUTHORITY OVER SUCH MATTERS AS LOCAL SECURITY, EDUCATION,
RESIDENCE BY FOREIGNERS, AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
EVERYBODY WOULD PAY INDIRECT TAXES, AS ON TOBACCO, TO
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD COLLECT AND
USE DIRECT TAXES, AS ON PROPERTY. THEY KNEW THAT IT
WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A FORMULA WHICH WOULD
PLEASE EVERYBODY, BUT FELT THEY COULD COME UP WITH
SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THEY HOPED UNITED
STATES WOULD GIVE THEM SOME SUPPORT.

2. I SAID THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO GIVE ASSISTANCE
TO A UNITED LEBANON, AND I WAS THERE TO GET HIS VIEWS
ON HOW THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED. HE SAID HE
DID NOT TAKE OUR DECLARATIONS IN THIS RESPECT VERY
SERIOUSLY. HE HAD A DRAWERFUL OF LETTERS FROM
PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD REITERATING THEIR SUPPORT
FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, AND
YET WE HAD STOOD BY AND DONE NOTHING WHILE LEBANON
WAS COMING TO PIECES. HE HOPED THAT WITH THE CARTER
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ADMINISTRATION WE WOULD BEGIN TO SHOW THAT WE MEANT
WHAT WE SAID. I SAID I THOUGHT WE DID.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT00859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770069-0132
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977024/aaaaadrp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:10 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:08 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6b344bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3317006
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, LE, (FRANGIE, SULEIMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b344bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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